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ELD 307

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Lesson Plan #1

* Rationale: The purpose of reading "Stop Picking on Me" by Pat Thomas is to allow the class to become aware of the bullying epidemic. This book will inform students how to recognize the different forms of bullying, how they could prevent it within the classroom, and how to handle different situations bullying may bring upon them. This is a community building lesson for the class as a whole.
* Standards: RL 2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. W 2.3 Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure. SL 2.3 Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.
* Objective: Students will be able to identify the different forms of bullying, how it affects themselves and their peers, how to refrain from bullying, and how to get help. Students will also be able to write in their journals about an experience with bullying or have the option to create a fictional story about bullying. Students will also be able to identify how characters might feel, become aware of social issues, and describe how to respond to challenges they may face.
* Procedures:
* At first, I would ask the students to go sit at their assigned seats on the carpet. Then, I would ask the anticipatory question, “Who can raise their hand and tell the class what they think the word bully means?” I will only ask a few students their opinions just to get an understanding of their comprehension before reading the book. This is almost a pretest before reading the book on bullying. Any answer is acceptable and this isn’t a graded response, just simply a way for students to describe what a bully is in their own words.
* I will then pull out the book “Stop Picking on Me” by Pat Thomas and explain that I will be reading them a book on the topic of bullying. I may say something along the lines of, “This book is based on bullying and what it does to others. It is not a typical interactive read-aloud which we normally may do, but since this is such a big problem in schools we are going to take a look at the issue and see what we can do to stop it before it reaches our classroom.” I will also make sure to tell them that at any time during the book they have a connection to the characters or what is going on, they can feel free to do the connection hand signal instead of calling out or raising their hands to relate to the story.
* I will start off of course with the title and the author. “This book is titled ‘Stop Picking on Me’ and the author’s name is Pat Thomas. From the picture on the cover, do you think bullying is something that makes people feel good or bad?” Hopefully then, the students will say in unison that the person on the cover is upset and does not feel too good about themselves. Then I will start to read the book.
* I will stop reading on page 21 of the book. At this point in the book it has discussed the traits of a bully and all of the different things they can do or say to put others down. I want to stop at this point in the book before it goes into some suggestions on how to handle bullies and the situations that they cause. Page 21 is also special because in the book there is an outlined box that has two questions for the teacher to ask the students. The first question is, “What sort of things do you do when someone bullies you?” The other question is, “Can you think of any different ways to deal with a bully?” I will tell the students not to raise their hands but to think silently to themselves and then I will ask them these two questions.
* Next, I will ask them to go back to their seats and to take out their journals. Once they are situated with their journals I will say, “Now we are going to write in our journals about our own personal experience with bullying or you have the choice to create a fictional narrative based on this topic. The choice is yours but there must be a suggestion on how to resolve the problem or stop the bullying at the end.” I will also hand out these directions on paper for any student that has visual needs. I want to ask students to come up with suggestions and resolutions for particular situations just so they can start brainstorming ideas that they may one day use.
* Depending on how long the students may need to write in their journals or what else we may have to do that day, the rest of the lesson may be split up for another time or day. Either way, there is another part to the lesson after the writing process. I will ask the students to hand in their journals and return to their spots on the carpet. I will continue on reading the book from page 22 until the end on page 27. Then, I will ask if anyone is comfortable enough to either share their experience, ideas, or summarize their narratives. I want to create classroom rules based on bullying that all of the students agree on. I will also give them a handout at the end of the day with different hotlines they can call and mention that they can come to teachers, counselors, parents, or any authoritative figure.
* Materials: The materials needed are the book "Stop Picking on Me" by Pat Thomas and individual journals for each student. They will be sitting on a carpet while I read this book to them as well.
* Assessments: Listening, answering questions, reflections, and writing in the journals are all forms of informal assessment for this lesson. I will pay close attention to students to see if they are listening intently. I will not ask all students to answer questions or raise their hand to speak in front of the class, but I hope they all can make connections to the book and give me a “connection hand signal.” They are also going to be given the opportunity to write a reflection in their individual journals. Their choice is either to write about a personal experience or create a fictional narrative.
* Differentiation: There is no need to change this lesson plan for this classroom. This is a national epidemic that everyone should be aware of. The only thing that may change is who sits in the front or back of the room depending on what the need in order to pay attention.

Future Connections: This story may be revisited at a later time if bullying becomes an

issue in the classroom or if students have gained experience dealing with bullies. The classroom rules that the students came up with will also be a constant reminder of this lesson.